GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:649
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2015
Waitlisted Passengers in Railways
Bhatt Smt.Ranjanben;Khadse Smt. Raksha Nikhil;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme, namely Vikalp, launched by the Railways;

(b) whether the scheme will be available only for trains running on two routes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the scheme would be extended to all the trains particularly those where there is huge demand of berths; and

(e) whether with a view to finding a solution for waitlisted passengers, the Government proposes to add extra coaches on the busy routes like Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Lucknow and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 649 BY SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT, SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE AND SHRI ARJUN MEGHWAL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.12.2015 REGARDING WAITLISTED PASSENGERS IN RAILWAYS

(a) to (c): With a view to provide confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers and, also, ensure optimal utilisation of available accommodation, the Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme known as 'VIKALP' has been introduced as a pilot project on Delhi − Jammu and Delhi − Lucknow sectors, initially for tickets booked through internet only. Salient features of this scheme are as under:-
(i) The scheme is applicable only across Mail/Express & Superfast trains presently.
(ii) Participation in this scheme is optional, i.e. only opting passengers who remain fully Waitlisted after charting are considered for allotment of berth(s) in the alternate train.
(iii) The scheme is applicable to all opting wait list passengers, irrespective of booking quota and concession.
(iv) Neither is any extra charge taken from passenger nor is any difference of fare refunded to them in case a passenger is shifted from a superfast train to mail/express train or vice versa.
(v) If all passengers of a PNR cannot be provided accommodation under VIKALP, none are considered for transfer to the alternate train in same class. Passenger(s) are considered for confirmed accommodation on an alternate train leaving from any station amongst the cluster of stations defined by Railways to a station serving the destination station on the same analogy.

(vi) Passengers once provided accommodation in alternate train are just as eligible for upgradation as are passengers originally booked on the 'alternate' train.
(vii) If a 'VIKALP' opting passenger decides to cancel his/her ticket after he/she has been provided a confirmed reservation in an alternate train, he/she will be treated as a confirmed passenger and extant cancellation rules would be applicable.
(viii) Once a 'VIKALP' passenger has been allotted alternate accommodation, no modification in journey schedule is permissible.
(d): Refinement, enlargement in scope, etc. of schemes introduced on pilot basis (like VIKALP) is a continuous, ongoing process based on assessment of their utility/efficacy, feedback from rail-users, etc.
(e): To meet the demand of traffic on busy routes, additional coaches are attached/special trains are run/frequency of existing trains is increased/new trains are introduced subject to operational feasibility.
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